

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 – 38 (canceled)

39. (original) A process for the production of homogenous single phase thickened beverages by a dispensing machine that is capable of dispensing non-thickened beverages.

40. (original) A process in accordance with Claim 39 wherein the dispensing machine includes a container of thickener concentrate, a metering pump and an in-line static mixer designed such that beverages exit the dispenser at the correct thickness, with a homogenous appearance and are ready to drink, whether the beverage thickness is increased by inclusion of the thickener concentrate or not.

41. (original) A process in accordance with Claim 39 wherein the dispensing machine includes a container of thickener concentrate, a metering pump and an exit nozzle with a narrow gap or pressure drop or and liquid foods exit the dispenser at the correct thickness, with a homogenous appearance and are ready to drink, whether the beverage thickness is increased by inclusion of the thickener concentrate or not.

42. (previously presented) A process in accordance with Claim 39 wherein the thickener used in the thickener concentrate is one or more of alginates (sodium, potassium, or ammonium salts), carrageenan, cellulose selected from sodium

carboxymethylcellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose and hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose, locust bean gum, guar gum or xanthan gum

43. (original) A process in accordance with Claim 42 where the thickener is xanthan gum.

44. (original) A process in accordance with Claim 42 where the xanthan gum is between 0.005% and 10% of the thickener concentrate.

45. (original) A process in accordance with Claim 42 where the xanthan gum is between 0.05% and 5% of the thickener concentrate.

46. – 56. canceled